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OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

BBC →

Chief, London Bureau
Just Good-the record straight!
L.
4/7.

From: Head of Reception Department

Room No. & Building: Tel. Ext.

date 3rd July, 1979

Subject: LONDON-AUSTRIAN BUREAU CO-ORDINATION MEETING

To: HMS

Thank you for letting me have a look at the minutes of the London-Austrian Bureau Co-ordination Meeting. I think it may be useful if I expressed my views on certain points:

3. Moscow Romanian and Bulgarian: It was my understanding that coverage of Moscow Romanian and Bulgarian would be raised only in order to find out whether FBIS can take over these casts in the long run in order to enable us to use the two monitor posts for something more useful (for instance, Persian monitoring). For the time being there is no question of any shift in responsibility from the BBC to FBIS and consequently no need for this to be noted at the next FBIS-BBC Co-ordination Meeting. Vienna Bureau have been helping us out with Moscow Romanian and Bulgarian while our monitors are on leave and we have been doing the same for Vienna with Kiev Domestic casts. We also help OKI with Soviet regional casts during leave periods. Incidentally, I would be in favour of retaining Romanian and Bulgarian capability even after 1981 when our sole Bulgarian monitor is due to retire.

5. Tanjug Second Channel: I think we have proved conclusively that the Second Channel does exist and that it is a wire channel. There is little doubt that it would be essential to subscribe to the Second Channel (if the cost is not too high) since it has been proved on more than one occasion that there is a definite loss of important Tanjug material which comes only on the Second Channel. (See [redacted] memorandum - point 4. See also [redacted] report of November 1978 and [redacted] of 7th May 1979.) In view of [redacted] memorandum and our own evidence I find it rather difficult to understand how anybody can say "it does not appear we are missing anything". (Hm) 25X1 25X1 25X1

8. Yugoslavia After Tito: Full agreement on non-dispersal of Serbo-Croat manpower. Delighted to learn that all Vienna's Serbo-Croats can do Macedonian.

9. Yugoslav Co-ordination: Amazed to hear [redacted] feels that the BBC Serbo-Croat team "is not jumping on things fast enough and that too often they try to pass processing back to Vienna". If anything, our Serbo-Croat monitors tend to do too much. Perhaps what prompted [redacted] remark was the fact that FBIS London Bureau find themselves occasionally unable to cope with the tremendous volume of our Serbo-Croat output with the result that no drop copy goes to Vienna. I would be grateful if [redacted] would bring to my attention any examples of our Serbo-Croat monitors failing to deal expeditiously with their commitments. They will, however, continue to expect Vienna's Serbo-Croats to process items received in casts which are FBIS commitments. 25X1 25X1 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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